

SCUFFY ESC allows first years to explore dorm communities

SCUFFY community placement will not affect on-campus dorm placement upon first years' arrival

By Caroline Cunningham

Support CommUnities For First Years (SCUFFY), an initiative to place first years in virtual dorm communities for the fall semester, held its dorm exploration and placement process Aug. 23–30.

SCUFFY is led by the Dormitory Council (DormCon) with input from the Office of the First Year, Undergraduate Residential Life, and Housing & Residential Services (HRS).

Residential Exploration Chair Zawad Chowdhury '23 said in an interview with *The Tech* that DormCon created SCUFFY after

MIT announced in July that first years who do not apply through the Student Housing Assistance Review Process would not live on campus. The SCUFFY website writes that participation in SCUFFY is “optional but encouraged” for first years.

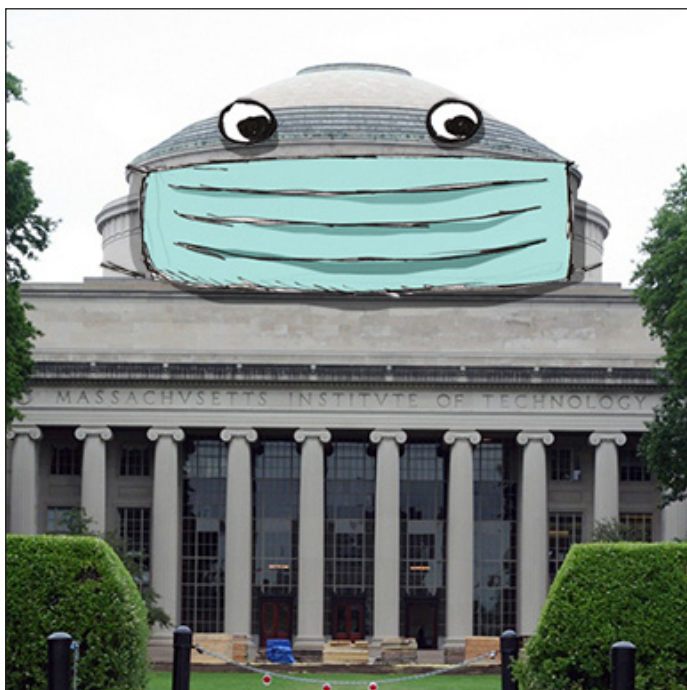
MIT's ten dorms and the five cultural houses within New House held 173 virtual events for first years Aug. 23–30 in a period called Exploring Support Communities (ESC), including movie nights, game nights, and Q&A sessions. First years ranked their dorm preferences Aug. 26–28.

Students were informed of their virtual dorm community placement

for the upcoming semester Aug. 30. Shaيدا Nishat '22, residential exploration chair, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that DormCon used an algorithm to “optimize” first years' preferences for dorm placement.

Chowdhury wrote in an email to *The Tech* that 824 first years participated in SCUFFY. Of these students, 792 were placed in dorm communities and 32 in cultural houses. About one quarter of participating first years were placed in Maseeh, and about one eighth were placed in each of Baker and Next House. McCormick, MacGregor, and Ran-

SCUFFY, Page 8



COURTESY OF SALLY LEE

In order to maintain health and safety, MIT Medical advises that all those on campus wear a mask.

135 undergraduates cancel on-campus housing assignments

784 undergraduates, 1,408 graduate students, and 331 family members of graduate students will live on campus Fall 2020.

Of the undergraduates living on campus, 613 are seniors, 21 are first years, 78 are sophomores, and 72 are juniors.

MIT Housing and Residential Services estimated early August that about 900 undergraduates (700 seniors and 200 non-seniors) would live on campus in the fall. However, 135 undergraduates (101 seniors, 18 sophomores, and 16 juniors) canceled their on-housing campus housing assignments, HRS Communications Manager Zachary Tsetsos wrote in an email to *The Tech* Aug. 30.

Over 90% of the undergraduates who canceled on-campus housing cited “taking remote classes this semester” as the primary reason for the cancellation, Tsetsos wrote. The other 10% canceled due to leaves of absence or withdrawals, travel restrictions, or visa issues.

Maseeh, Simmons, and New House will house the largest number of undergraduates at 174, 169, and 117 students respectively, between one third and half of their normal capacities. Baker will house 87 undergraduates, about one quarter of its normal capacity. East Campus, MacGregor, McCormick, Next, and Random will each house roughly one fifth or less of their normal capacities.

Burton Conner is the only dorm closed for undergraduate housing in the fall.

Tsetsos wrote that Burton Conner, which can “accommodate up to 180 occupants,” will “serve as a centralized support residence during the Fall 2020 semester.” It will primarily be “utilized by MIT Medical and staff across the Division of Student Life” to support those who “test positive for Covid-19 and must self-isolate” or “require a temporary accommodation for self-quarantine purposes.”

— Shelley Choi

MIT Medical reports one positive undergraduate test amid move-in

MIT Medical instructs all community members who test positive to self-isolate, initiates contact tracing for them

By Sarah Zhao

MIT Medical has reported three new positive COVID-19 tests since Aug. 26, for a total of 11 positive results out of about 25,000 total tests since Aug. 16. One undergraduate student living on campus tested positive for COVID-19 during move-in weekend Aug. 29–30, MIT Medical Director Cecilia Stuoipis '90 wrote in an email to the MIT community Sept. 1.

Stuoipis wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the number of positive cases is “not surprising” considering the “level of COVID in the greater Boston area.” MIT Medical has seen about 2,000 negative cases for each positive case; the roughly 0.05% positive rate indicates that MIT Medical is detecting infected members “before they have symptoms,” Stuoipis wrote.

When an MIT community member tests positive, MIT Medical instructs them to self-isolate, identifies their “close contacts,” and notifies individuals “who might have potentially been exposed.” Contact tracing can sometimes be completed within 24 hours of the test, Stuoipis wrote to *The Tech*. MIT Medical does not share the name of the infected person when notifying their close contacts.

MIT also cleans affected lab, classroom, and residence hall spaces and notifies relevant administrators.

If a community member is alerted of their positive result by the COVID Pass app before MIT Medical has sent its notification, they should “stay put in [their] room or at home until” they “have been contacted by MIT Medical and have received instructions about the next steps for isolation,” Stuoipis wrote.

Stuoipis wrote to *The Tech* that MIT Medical has worked with MIT Information Systems and Technology to “enhance” the COVID Pass app, such as by adding a new feature to display waiting times for testing.

Stuoipis added that MIT community members should follow the COVID Pass app “religiously,” be patient with testing wait times, and get tested on their assigned days.

MIT Medical has also switched from the deep nasal swabs used in the spring to “faster and more comfortable” simple swipes within the nostrils for testing, Stuoipis wrote. Deep nasal swabs require swirling for 15 seconds while the new method requires only “3 full rotations.”

MIT Medical, Page 8

MIT Center for Civic Media closes after 13 years

Director Ethan Zuckerman sees Center's closure 'as the launching of a diaspora'

By Jennifer Ai

MIT's Center for Civic Media closed down at the end of August, as announced in a letter by the center's director, Ethan Zuckerman. The Center was a collaboration between the MIT Media Lab and the Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W) department and contributed to research in media, technology, and civic and political engagement for 13 years.

In 2007, Henry Jenkins, Mitch Resnick PhD '92 and Chris Csik-

szentmihályi created the Center for Future Civic Media to examine the relationship between participatory media and community and to “invent new community models for media,” Zuckerman wrote in an email to *The Tech*. In its early stages, the Center's focus was primarily on local activism. In particular, several of its projects helped communities affected by fracking advocate for their rights through media and news stories.

More recently, the Center had conducted research on “how par-

ticipatory media is influencing traditional media” and explored “making and disseminating media as a way of making political and social change.” While it continued to sponsor projects supporting activism in communities around the world, the Center had also embarked on more large-scale endeavors relating to social change, tackling problems like racial bias in facial detection algorithms. Zuckerman believes the Center became “something of a magnet for activism on the MIT campus,” as “so

many extraordinary activists found a home within Civic.”

Zuckerman wrote that the Center closed primarily because several staff members recently accepted positions at other universities. Zuckerman will be a professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst starting this fall.

Zuckerman wrote that research centers “are always a combination of funder interest, professorial interest and student and community

Civic Media, Page 8

IN SHORT

Registration for all students must be submitted by Friday.

Degree applications for February SB and advanced degrees are due Friday.

There will be no classes Sept. 7 due to Labor Day.

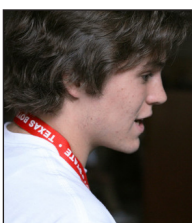
First quarter PE classes start Sept. 8.

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Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

TENET

Nolan's newest epic will flip your mind backwards and forwards. **ARTS, p. 7**



BOYS STATE

Teenagers campaign for political office. **ARTS, p. 6**

CENSORSHIP

Exploring perceptions and expanding views. **OPINION, p. 4**

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Silver	Home page ad	1/4 page	\$400/week
Bronze	Article ad	1/8 page	\$300/week

ME VS. ME

Can professional development align with social justice?

Delayed gratification, but chewed up and spit back out again

By Joanna Lin
EDITOR

This summer, I stayed at home and studied for the MCAT. Among other things, it's a relatively important part of the foundation of my future. And it's hard; believe me and the thousands of other students who crammed for the hundreds of re-scheduled tests. Yet my friends and I have all been experiencing the additional mental burden of academic work during *this particular summer*.

What does it mean to read about oxidation and reduction in a galvanic cell when continued police brutality against Black Americans have galvanized the country into two opposing cells? To watch a Khan Academy video on Maslow's hierarchy of needs and know that more than 20% of Americans face food insecurity? Studying for a test with a \$300 price tag feels unnervingly superficial given our current political climate, no matter how I look at it.

Doing well on my MCAT will set me up to go to medical school, where I will be learning about how we currently know how to heal, maintain, and cultivate the human body (or, I guess, the white male body). I don't think there is any other

profession in the world that combines science, service, and empathy so succinctly. I don't think there is anything else I'd rather be doing in the world. However, a necessary step towards being a doctor is to study for and take the MCAT. I have to do well so that I can do good.

I have to do well so that I can do good.

But in the back of my mind, I'm always thinking that I should be doing more now. I should be volunteering at a hospital, or delivering groceries to those who are quarantined. I should be participating more in the conversations about health-, race-, or poverty-related equity in our society. I should be at protests, if not carrying a sign, at least handing out water bottles at the medic tents. But I am doing none of those things.

What does it say that I have the means to study for an entire summer? That I don't *need* to get a job or take care of young or ailing family members? For all the money I've given, petitions I've signed, and discussions I've been part of, it always feels like I could be doing more if I were not

studying for the MCAT. With the movement to prevent mundane Instagram posts from returning, going on with my study plan seems like a lack of acknowledgment of the revolution outside.

This feels like guilt. Heavy, smothering guilt that I am not doing enough today, and when I finally find the time tomorrow, it will be too late. But, as we've all seen on social media, guilt is not the way forward, and centering the conversation on my guilt is the last thing I want to do.

Now that my test is over and we are all preparing to start a new semester, I think it's more important than ever to continue consciously learning (and unlearning!) about what our society is and can be. It would be all too easy to slip back into the pattern of lecture, recitation, pset, midterm, but is my GPA really more important than social and political engagement?

Medicine (along with academia) commonly removes itself from political discourse as one of those fields that serve people, regardless of political ideology. One thing that I've been trying to do is learn more about the racism and sexism built into the medical system, not only in the care provided to the public, but also in medical education. Why is it that every

medical school application costs upwards of \$200 with secondaries, when students are applying to nearly 25 schools each cycle?

Medicine commonly removes itself from political discourse as one of those fields that serve people, regardless of political ideology.

Taking the time to read one article a week about what the medical field has put patients through, whether conscious like the Tuskegee Syphilis Study or unconscious like feeling the need to portray a loved one as "a good person," is a stepping stone. I hope it will help me reflect on the profession I intend to enter, and I hope it will remind me to judge slowly and empathize quickly. After all, you have to be aware of the problems before you try to fix them.

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE

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/'spôrts ,rīdərs/

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Finding human territory in a fractured world

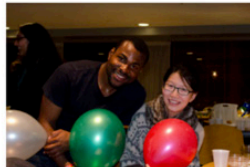
By Aruna Sankaranarayanan

This time last year, I was a new graduate student, fresh off the boat, who started early in the summer. Being the first from my undergraduate alma mater in India to come to MIT, and with most of my cohort starting in September, I lacked easy access to a community here and was not having a particularly social summer.

It was during this time that I read about the revocation of Article 370 in the Indian constitution, which would enforce full control of the Indian government over the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The act erased the quasi-independent status of Jammu and Kashmir by removing several protective clauses pertaining to the area from the Indian constitution. More frighteningly, the Indian government house-arrested several local leaders to prevent resistance, increased army presence in an already densely fortified area, and cut off internet and telecommunication access from the region of Kashmir. The lack of communication effectively subjugated more than nine million people by snipping their ties from the world. Most Indians, particularly majoritarian Hindus, rejoiced at the revocation of Article 370.

One of my thoughts last summer was, “Are there Kashmiri students at MIT? If yes, how are they coping?” If I couldn’t communicate with family back home in one of the most heavily militarized areas in the world, I would have crumbled. If I, with a family in a safe metropolis, lovely housemates, and some scattered family in the U.S., were feeling lonely and empty, I could not imagine what a Kashmiri student from back home was going through. I decided to write to Sangam, the largest community of Indian students at MIT, to reach out to Kashmiri students — it was a distant possibility that they would be on that list, but I wanted to try.

Surprisingly, my email was not published, and I did not receive an explanation about why it was censored. A week later, I reached out to the moderator of the mailing list seeking an explanation. Irrespective of where their support lay with respect to the revocation of Article 370, surely they would understand why it was imperative to reach out to Kashmiri students at MIT.



Celebrate

At Sangam, we believe festivals are more than just events. Join us in sharing the joy and traditions of India's many festivals.

Socialize

We create avenues to meet new friends and build lifelong relationships. Join our informal social events and unwind over food.

Integrate
Join our extended family halfway around the world from home! We help Indian students gel in with our well-knit community.

- A. The purpose of the General Sangam Body shall be:
1. Enriching the MIT environment with the culture and traditions of the Indian subcontinent.
 2. Providing forums for both learned and casual discussion of issues relevant to the subcontinent and the people whose roots are there.
 3. Working with MIT and our partner organizations to ensure that the total needs of the General Sangam Body are met.
- B. The purposes of the Sangam Executive Committee shall be:
1. To initiate, organize and further the activities of interest to the General Sangam Body.
 2. To represent the General Sangam Body on all matters pertaining to its general welfare.

COURTESY OF ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Descriptions of Sangam's purpose, as per its website and constitution.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.



This email, offering support to Kashmiri students, was not permitted through moderation.

My email was deemed “softly political,” thereby disqualifying it from an “apolitical” forum that existed primarily to share events on campus and in Boston. Both Sangam’s charter and their website make no claim in this regard; in fact they emphasize the importance of building well-integrated communities of students from the subcontinent in a world far away from home. After attempting to convince the moderator, and through them the executive board of the group, over several emails, I was eventually forced to give up.

I try, one year later, to objectively explain why I was deeply struck by this incident. When I consider the reasons for such censorship, at best I can assume that the moderators operate on implicit guidelines that only allow for sharing event posts in order to avoid unnecessary traffic on the list, and at worst, assume that they are themselves majoritarian and see this as a scandalous view that must be discouraged. Is this the cost of empathy these days?

My email was deemed “softly political,” thereby disqualifying it from an “apolitical” forum.

Sangam has since published mails from MISTI and notable alumni on events that are not necessarily “apolitical” (and to their credit, not particularly majoritarian) about South Asians and the BLM movement, and casteism and majoritarianism in the subcontinent, and also published non-event posts, but it did not give me permission to publish information about a Harvard and MIT student-led protest (an event post) against a contentious bill passed by the In-

dian government or share a document to collect signatures of students and staff requesting the government to reconsider the act. Arbitrary censorship of emails (that are not spam, or fomenting extremism or hate) is in itself deeply problematic since it imposes the biases of the moderator and the executive committee, and sometimes majoritarian views, on the members of the group. If such censorship excludes certain sections of the community, it is inherently cruel, and depending on who is being excluded, undeniably political. Being apolitical is a luxury accorded to the privileged; usually an apolitical stance is simply an implicit expression of a majoritarian stance.

Arbitrary censorship of emails is in itself deeply problematic.

This is not a piece about Sangam — the group's executive committee pours in a lot of unpaid labour for it to exist, thrive, and evolve, and I acknowledge that. I am simply most familiar with the workings of Sangam since it is my community; however, I am also aware that such occurrences happen in international groups across the campus. From informal conversations with non-Indian international students, I have heard similar stories of opinion suppression, majoritarian views, and exclusion based on academic pedigree in their communities at MIT. Since entry into institutions like MIT is a self-selecting system that commonly filters out those at the lower rungs of privilege, this selection also trickles down to student associations and their leaderships, leading to incidents like the ones I describe. Further, it is often the case that the leadership of international groups at universities of MIT's stature is connected to the consulate, visiting political leaders, and other spheres of influence. What is "problematically political," then, is also something that might adversely impact these relationships between the group and influential circles of the community. Such imposition, and selective bias, does not bode well in a polarized world, and most definitely not in a melting pot of countries and cultures like MIT.

Through this piece, I reach out to you, the wider MIT community, to urge you to enlarge your windows, expand your perception, and deliberate on that oft-forgotten world outside your own with the same rigour that you bring to science. It is only by understanding each other, particularly those of us who are not adequately represented, that we can truly calibrate the factors that make up a just and safe campus and world.

Aruna Sankaranarayanan is a graduate student in the MIT Media Lab.

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Synchronous

Solution, page 8

			1	9	2			
9		8					1	4
	3				4		5	9
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Asynchronous

Solution, page 8

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	30x		2x		2
5		6		1-	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Immaterial by Billie Truitt

Solution, page 8

ACROSS

- 1 Gelatin garnish for meats
6 Mountains of Switzerland
10 Segments of stage plays
14 Lightweight modeling wood
15 Hand out the cards
16 Safari or cruise
17 Smooths (out)
18 Spanish artist Salvador
19 Office note
20 Slang term for a Marine
23 Part of mph
24 Written promise to repay
25 Most crowded
27 Formed a mental image of
32 Bring in, as a harvest
33 Suffix meaning “sort of”
34 Poisonous
36 Correct a pencil error
39 Double-__ (type of tourney)
41 Enjoy very much
43 Apple’s tablet
44 Equip anew
46 Rams and roosters
48 What a yolk comes from

- 49 Back of an envelope
51 Dangerous whip-tailed fish
53 Idle drawings
56 Hair gel or wet tar
57 Caterer’s big coffeepot
58 Fluffy treat at a carnival
64 Stare in amazement
66 Winnie-the-__
67 In the know
68 “Get __ writing”
69 Rich soil
70 Drop by unannounced
71 Requirement
72 Small whirlpool
73 Open-handed smacks

DOWN

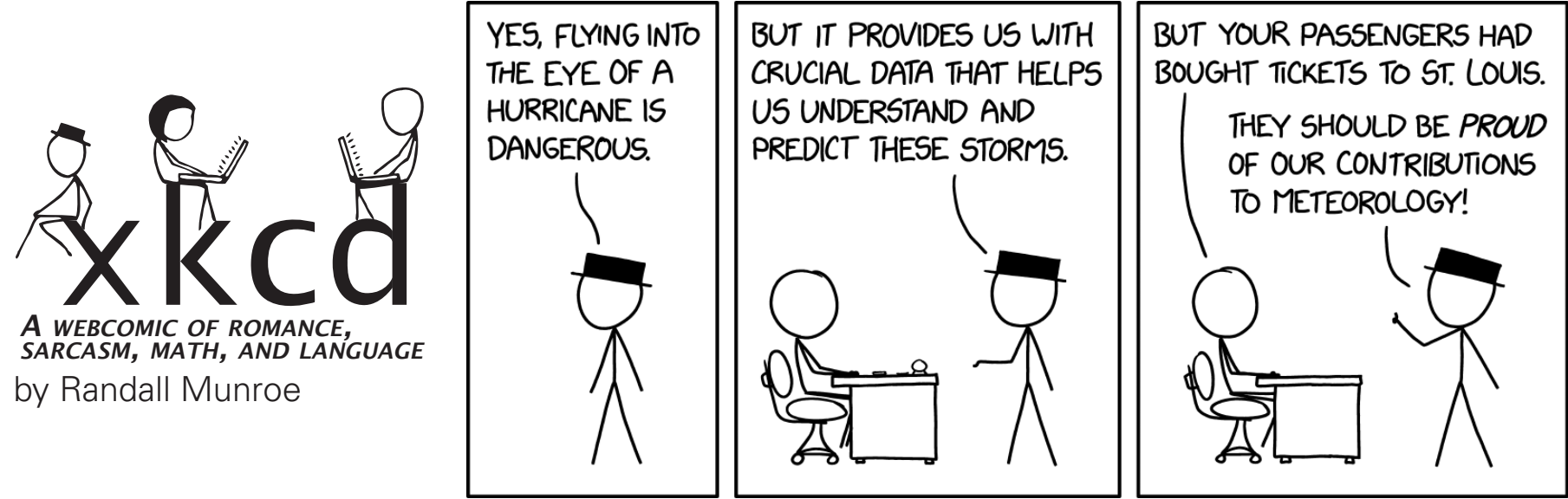
- 1 Cain’s brother
2 Rescue
3 “Not guilty,” for one
4 “So true, right?”
5 Redeem all one’s chips
6 Mail’s destination: Abbr.
7 Low in fat
8 Drained of color
9 Cheese-cutting machine

- 10 S&L’s outdoor device
11 Crinkly party streamer stuff
12 Measures with a stopwatch
13 Baseball or golf
21 Coins in France and Spain
22 Joint to bounce a baby on
26 Dress of India
27 Ship’s docking area
28 Maui or Ireland
29 Dessert with meringue filling
30 School test
31 Female opera stars
35 Young stallion
37 Epic tale
38 Feeling tense
40 Not at all spicy
42 Occupy a throne
45 Bath powder
47 Cinema chocolate candy with white speckles
50 Women and children

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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64			65		66					67				
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

- 52 Leave the base illegally
53 Began eating
54 Make a speech
55 Got to one’s feet
59 Cousin of a frog
60 “Goodness!”
61 California wine valley
62 Slow faucet leak
63 Longings
65 Bring to a close

[2353] Hurricane Hunters



A Texas government camp for teenage boys actually provides a bit of insight into our political troubles and triumphs

Streaming on Apple TV Plus

By Lulu Tian
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The nature of the camp, pitting many loud, opinionated young men against each other, is an automatic source of momentum and drama. The film benefits from how inherently captivating this premise is, and dramatic story arcs naturally emerge. Patriotic military band anthems playing in the background exaggerate the sense of nationalism and grandeur in this fictional, alternate-world government. The film uses

Due to the nature of the observational filming, what is captured is an unplanned reflection of real-life events. The story that emerges in this film, as in all documentaries, comes from the editing. *Boys State* creates a strong sense of location and context through shots of the military band playing, the white shirts and red lanyards gathered around cafeteria tables, auditoriums filled with seas of people, and teens scrolling through and posting on apps like Instagram. There is a sense of maturity and youth, of kids trying to be adults, and of compromise and deceit. The four main subjects, despite their ideological and personality differences, share the experience of having to adjust one's own values in order to gain the favor of the majority. At this Texas Boys State, anti-abortion, pro-gun, and extreme nationalism are the favored opinions by default. The difference then between the Federalists and Nationalists is mainly arbitrary and really comes down to the candidate chosen to represent each party. This fabricated division drives the

It is refreshing to see minority opinions and voices being highlighted, but as a re-

Perhaps it is naïve to think that high schoolers in Texas could solve the largest questions our nation is facing today, but *Boys State* shows that they may not be too far from it. In a world where politics often feels hopeless, this documentary's ironic pitfall is that it is too focused on a heroic storyline. But it is true that in these young men, future heroes exist. A great leader can be someone who has the unsurpressable urge to help their country, which we see in Ben, Rene, Steven, and Robert, despite their ideological differences. They are part of the future of politics, and, as Steven says, proof to the adults in Washington that finding common ground on difficult issues is possible. In the film, Robert states that you cannot win with a minority opinion or with "what you believe in your heart." He shrugs and simply accepts this as a fact of politics, as many people do. While *Boys State* also acknowledges the way politics is played, by the end of the film, you can't help but hope that there is some truth in the game as well.



Robert MacDougall and Steven Garza are two of thousands of boys attending Boys State, a high school program that provides intriguing insight into American politics as a whole.

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MOVIE REVIEW

An interview with John David Washington on *Tenet*, a film that couldn't have been more 'Nolan'-ized

A mind-bending espionage thriller that gets you thinking non-linearly

★★★★★

Tenet

Directed by Christopher Nolan

Screenplay by Christopher Nolan

Starring John David Washington, Robert Pattinson, Elizabeth Debicki, Kenneth Branagh

Rated PG-13, Now Playing

By Vyshnavi Vennelakanti

The fully crowded opera house in Kiev in the opening scene of *Tenet* is the exact opposite of what you'd find while watching *Tenet* in cinemas, thanks to social-distancing norms. *Tenet* starts off as the Protagonist (John David Washington), a CIA agent, and his team try to extract an exposed American spy from the opera house. However, their mission fails, and the Protagonist is then inducted into a "more-secret-than-secret" organization known as "Tenet." He is told that a Cold War, one as cold as ice, is coming.

The Protagonist then encounters time-bending entropy reversal technology, i.e., technology that can reverse the entropy of objects. He learns that this technology is from the future and tracks it to Andrei Sator (Kenneth Branagh), a Russian oligarch. The rest of the story unfolds as the Protagonist, with the help of others in Tenet, tries to stop Sator from using the inversion technology

which could put the past and the present of humanity, not to mention the future, in jeopardy.

Like the Protagonist, we are taken on a time-inverting journey for the rest of the movie, one action sequence at a time, several of them both forwards and backwards. Along this journey, we understand why the movie is named *Tenet*. The word "TENET" is a palindrome, and the movie itself is a palindrome in some sense. As Laura (Clémence Poésy) says, "Don't try to understand it. Feel it."

Not only the title of the movie but also the names of certain characters and locations seem to have been taken from the Sator Square, a five-by-five Latin palindrome. In a college roundtable interview, John David Washington explained, "This comes from the mind of Christopher Nolan. Everything is interchangeable except for the point of entropy. So, I think that's what he was going with. The title itself is a palindrome. And Sator is Rotas (in reverse); Rotas was the vault (Sator's company security in Oslo Freeport)."

Watching the film for the first time, I wished I had the ability to rewind and play back some of the sequences. Washington himself was mind-blown when he first read through the script of *Tenet*, thinking, "How did he [Nolan] come up with something like this? This is INSANE!" Washington said "This script took me four hours to read. Like, I would read ten pages, go back five. Read fifteen, go back ten."

Nolan is known for accomplishing as much as possible in-camera as opposed to resorting to VFX, as evident from the use of a real 747 for the plane crash sequence in *Tenet*. This, of course, made shooting a lot of sequences harder. Washington described in detail that "the vault sequences to the hallways where the paintings were held took about a week to do. It was quite turbulent. All of it was done in-camera. Hoyte van Hotema (director of photography) was right there with us. I ended up



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

John David Washington and Robert Pattinson star in Christopher Nolan's latest film, *Tenet*.

kicking him on one take because he was really in the fight. I was saying 'I'm sorry!' and he said, 'Keep going, keep going!'"

The filming of *Tenet* was also ambitious in that it took place in seven countries across three continents. Nolan explained that "the international component of *Tenet* is very important because it's about a threat to the entire world — to existence as a whole — and those stakes are integral to the drama."

The score of *Tenet*, composed by the Oscar-winning Ludwig Göransson, plays an important role in setting the mood of the film and offering insight into the personalities of characters at times. However, there are certain sequences where the score is so dominant that it swallows some of the key conversations.

The performance of the cast of *Tenet* is mind-blowing, to say the least. There is a scene where the Protagonist and his partner, Neil (Robert Pattinson), hold their breath to survive. Thanks to the actors' vivid perfor-

mances, I discovered I was in fact holding my breath! This pretty much sums up how brilliant Washington and Pattinson are in their roles. Branagh convincingly brings the antagonist to life just the way Nolan describes — "an appalling piece of humanity." Debicki plays Kat (Sator's wife) with utmost perfection, portraying the struggle of an estranged wife who is kept away from her son. We also see Michael Caine, Nolan's good luck charm, in a supporting role.

Tenet is undoubtedly Nolan's most mind-bending film to date. You'd miss key connections if you blinked! The 150-minute masterpiece, which involved shooting around 1.6 million feet of IMAX film, is sure to take you on a bumpy roller-coaster ride except that the ups and downs you encounter are not in space, but in time. As said in the movie, "You have to start looking at the world in a new way."

The interview has been edited and cut for clarity and length.

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Reshamwala: SCUFFY ‘has definitely eased my online transition into MIT’

SCUFFY, from Page 1

dom received the fewest first years, with under 50 students each.

Chowdhury said that a first year’s placement in a dorm community “is not tied with housing at all” and does not affect where they will live on campus.

Dean of Student Life Suzy Nelson wrote in an email to *The Tech* that while “participants are not guaranteed” a housing assignment into their SCUFFY community, first years will be able to rank their residence hall preferences in a separate

HRS form and “HRS will make every effort to assign first-year students to one of their top residence hall preferences.”

Nelson wrote in an email to *The Tech* that with “the guidance of committed upper-level students,” SCUFFY will allow first years to “learn about residential community life at MIT and start developing connections that will last throughout their undergraduate residential experience.”

Beyond broader dorm assignments, SCUFFY will allow first years to recreate the experience of being

part of tighter-knit dorm subgroup such as a floor or entry this fall.

Chowdhury said that first years are “not going to be just placed in a dorm,” but are also “going to be placed in a smaller community within a dorm.” This way, “each first year will have a very tight-knit group which they can interact with and where they can be welcomed.”

Several first-year students have found this sense of community to be valuable when starting MIT.

Denzel Segbefia ’24 said in an interview with *The Tech* that attending Maseeh’s SCUFFY events made

him realize that, “I really like how the people in Maseeh are, [their] culture. I think they’re a really nice group of people I’d like to surround myself with.”

Shreya Reshamwala ’24 wrote in an email to *The Tech* that during ESC, she visited a Zoom room for a different dorm each day and “made sure that I visited most of the dorms which I was remotely interested in based on i3 videos.”

“SCUFFY has definitely eased my online transition into MIT a little bit. I feel like having an online community to support me will definitely be

beneficial to tackling the emotional isolation that comes with going to school online,” Reshamwala said.

Daisy Wang ’24 wrote in an email to *The Tech* that she attended eight SCUFFY events. “I chose the ones that looked interesting, fun, useful, or all of the above” and “played a couple games, attended a movie night, and asked questions in Q&As.”

Wang wrote, “I am personally going to feel much more at ease knowing that I belong, even if temporarily, to a community during my first exposure to MIT.”

MIT has constructed fall plan with options other than emptying campus

MIT Medical, from Page 1

Stuopis wrote to *The Tech* that following Quarantine Week regulations, wearing a mask, and physical distancing may help curb transmission.

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD ’88 and Provost Martin Schmidt PhD ’88 wrote in an email to the MIT community Aug. 31 that MIT is monitoring several factors this fall, including transmission trends on campus and in the great-

er Boston area; “overall demand” on MIT’s testing partners; changes in MIT’s “isolation capacity”; “hot spots or clusters in a residence hall, academic building, or research facility”; and noncompliance among community members on campus.

If there is “emerging evidence that a change is needed to stanch transmission in our community,” MIT could “scale back in-person classes,” “reduce density in a lab or building,” “curtail the use of public areas in residence halls,” or “limit

the number of staff on campus,” Barnhart wrote. “Unlike last spring, when the only real option in the face of so many unknowns was to empty campus,” MIT has constructed its fall plan “around much more targeted options.”

Center shifted ‘intellectual landscape’ surrounding ‘media-centric’ activism

Civic Media, from Page 1

interest. The last of these never waned, but it was time for the principals involved with the project to move to other universities.”

Despite the impact the Center for Civic Media has had on the MIT community and communities at large, Zuckerman interprets its

closure as a positive development and hopes the Center’s goals will continue to be carried out by professors and staff at MIT. “I see this less as a death than as the launching of a diaspora — there will be more people focused on Civic Media around the broader academic community while some at MIT remain closely focused on these issues,” he wrote.

In particular, Zuckerman believes the Center’s mission will continue through the work of other professors and researchers, citing the “community connections” research of Media Lab executive director Deb Roy PhD ’99, the data feminism research of urban science and planning professor Catherine D’Ignazio SM ’14, and EECS professor David Karger’s research on “models for

social media and systems that can improve existing conditions.”

MIT admissions officer and CMS/W instructor Chris Peterson SM ’13 tweeted Aug. 24 that the Center “is maybe the most important community I’ve ever been a part of. I am so sorry that civic [sic] is closing down and so beyond grateful.”

Zuckerman wrote that the work done by the Center in the past 13

years has had an impact in “shifting the intellectual landscape” surrounding issues like the Black Lives Matter movement, which relies heavily on “media-centric” activism. He added that “many of the ideas Center for Civic Media advocated for are mainstream ones now” and while the Center is closing, he believes the ideas it promoted “are in good hands at MIT right now.”

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